

Lonsdale Fire District
Meeting Minutes
September 21st, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lonsdale Fire District was held on Wednesday, September 21st 2016, at the Lincoln Housing Authority Community Room, at 10 Franklin Street, Lincoln, RI. Wardens Babbitt, Booth Picozzi and Skenyon were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Warden Babbitt.

Warden Booth discussed Correspondence, during which there was discussion regarding how the Board was to seek assistance in determining the value of the Lonsdale vehicles, their maintenance costs, and if they would be sold to Saylesville or another community. Warden Babbitt had been served papers by a RI State Constable in regards to the ongoing legal issue with the Lonsdale firefighters. Warden Booth hopes this can be resolved before this issue is taken to court.

Warden Babbitt then read aloud the monthly bills to be paid, which was double due to the Board not meeting last month. There was also extra funds to be paid, for petty cash expenses, the chief's car repair bill and an advertisement bill from The Valley Breeze. Warden Babbitt then read aloud the balances on all of the Lonsdale accounts. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and approve the monthly bills. Warden Picozzi seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0.

The Clerk then read aloud the Minutes from the previous meeting in July. This reading reminded Warden that the payment of \$15,000 for Saylesville was not included in the bills and needed to be paid. Warden Babbitt made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Warden Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0.

For Public Comment, a voter indicated concern about the Rescue/Town of Lincoln only paying \$1000 a month for rent and how the Lonsdale Board and taxpayers are paying for their bills and utilities. Warden Babbitt reports that he has discussed this with Town Administrator Almond.

It was then asked what would be done with the station, should the Charter be allowed to dissolve. Warden Babbitt reports that this would be up to Saylesville to decide and that Saylesville could potentially sell it to the Town. At this point, Chief Fisher is not going to operate an engine company from it.

Another voter expressed displeasure over the Rescue only paying \$1000 a month and how the Town “messed up”, and how Saylesville, Lonsdale and Fairlawn should have merged a long time ago.

Paul Ryan then expressed concern over how the trucks have not been run in 14 months and how that was going to affect their value. He also expressed concern that the Board’s stipend was not enough to reflect the amount of work required of them.

In regards to the ongoing labor suit with the Lonsdale firefighters, Warden Babbitt stated that the Board understands that it owes the firefighters money, but that the Board is trying to figure out how much it owes and why. He explained that there are federal regulations and contract regulations that need to be sorted. He also explained that the Board did not willingly violate any regulations and that there would be a difference in the “look back” of the violations, (3 years for “willful” and 2 years for “unwillful”).

Chief Fisher reported that there were 43 calls in Lonsdale last month. Warden Babbitt made a motion to accept the Chief’s Report. This was seconded by Warden Picozzi. Motion passed, 4-0.

Warden Babbitt then reported on Old Business. He reports that the Auditor General had an issue with the wording of the audit proposal from Hague, Sahady & Company, CPA’s P.C.

It has been determined that the Lonsdale Fire Board does have the authority to sell equipment without voter approval. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept “Old Business”. Motion seconded by Warden Booth. Motion passed, 4-0.

Warden Babbitt then discussed New Business. Saylesville is in possession of the Chief’s car and are using it. The insurance company was contacted and it was approved. The Board is still awaiting the bill for the Ranger. In approximately 2 weeks, a technician will get to Lonsdale and attempt start the Engine. It will be taken to Saylesville, where there will be an inventory completed for all of the equipment. It will then go to Greenwood in North Attleboro to be serviced. The equipment taken off of it will be appraised and either be purchased by Saylesville or sold online.

Warden Skenyon made a motion at 8:12 pm to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Warden Picozzi. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Driscoll, Clerk